

Application No.: 09/671,567

Docket No.: JCLA5635

REMARKS

It is noted with great appreciation that the Office Action considers claims 1-9 as being allowed. However, the Office Action has rejected claims 10-12 as being unpatentable over Younse et al. (USP 4,805,203) in view of Ayukawa et al. (USP 6,404,694) and further in view of Heller et al. (USP 6,396,539). In response thereto, Applicants have cancelled claims 10-12, without disclaimer, prejudice or waiver. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1-9 remaining pending in the present application which the Examiner considered as allowed. Applicants have cancelled the aforementioned claims merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application, without conceding that the rejections are properly based. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these cancelled claims in a continuing application.

Page 5 of 6

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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth hereinbefore, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1-9 are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims

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Page 6 of 6

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